



# INDEXA

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## INDEXA

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## XX9D—45,000 QSOs from Macau . . . Or How to Overcome Problems By Werner Hasemann, DJ9KH



The XX9D Team (left to right): DM2AYO, DJ9KH, DL3HRH, DL2HWA, DL4SVA, DL2RNS, DL2AWG, XX9LT, DM2AUJ and DL7VEE.

**A**s we were sitting together at the pool in Sri Lanka last year we tried to find an answer to the question foremost in every DXpedition planner member's mind: Where do we go next?

Our team members preferred Pacific destinations in the past but had to accept that propagation on short-wave will slow down the next 5 to 7 years. A succesful expedition

with a moderate number of QSOs could then only be made from locations closer to the radio amateur hot spots of Europe, Japan and North America. At last we found that Macau would be an attractive spot being as it was on several Most Wanted Lists and offered the chance to have pile-ups around the clock.

Macau was accepted by the team as the next target, and preparations began with collecting information:

What about the last expeditions to Macau?

Who could be helpful for us in Macau?

What did we learn during our last activities on the Marshall Islands and Sri Lanka?

We found DL8LE, PG5M, IK7YTT and XX8LT (Bom) as Macau-insiders with actual experience of Macau. They supported us with information and connected us and our needs to the management of

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## XX9D—45,000 QSOs from Macau (con'd)

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the Grand Coloane Resort hotel, which responded in a very obliging manner.

At an early stage we made provisions with the hotel management as far as possible for the specific circumstances and challenges facing us. For example: we needed special fabrications to hold the bases of our five masts on the floor of the balconies (to be machined in advance), and we wished an extra operating room on the top floor which could be be equipped to meet our needs and provide access to our antennas.

The hot phase of planning began after we got the „green light“ from the telecommunication authorities in Macau, including the callsign XX9D. Our key considerations were: 24/7 operation with ten operators and 3-4 active stations, four K3 transceivers with 500 watt amplifiers, five antennas for 160 meters to 10 meters, two bandfilters for each band, a 1.5kw Triplexer, common-mode and ac-filters, low-loss cables . . . all under the dictate of minimizing the weight of the luggage.

We had a very comfortable flight from Frankfurt via Beijing to Macau where we found ourselves at the customs gate having to decide—declare or nothing to declare. We asked the friendly staff for an import declaration for our transceivers. It took quite some time to assure them that we needed such a declaration. At last they confiscated the transceivers and asked us to pick them up the next day with the necessary papers. Anyway, 2 hours later we arrived at the hotel, the Grand Coloane Resort—a real 5-star hotel. Unpacking was done in a short time and antenna -mounting began. Thanks to the detailed advance information regarding the hotel and the surrounding area, setting up the five masts with their antennas including the guying, matching and tuning took us only about six hours the next day. In the meantime the transceivers and the licenses were picked up downtown and we were ready for the PTT- inspection team.



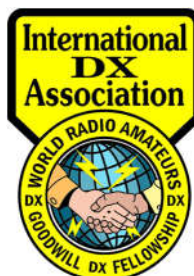
**The Grand Coloane Resort Hotel was to be our operating headquarters for our stay.**

Three friendly officials were interested in seeing all the equipment and antennas we had put up. After a few questions were answered, we had a big OK for our operation.

The team around the „Chief“, Rolf DL7VEE, consisted of ten DXpedition-proven operators from Germany plus Bom XX9LT from Macau, who visited us almost daily and was integrated into the operations-plan. He was by far the

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## XX9D—45,000 QSOs from Macau (con'd)



**The step-like floors of the hotel permitted installation of antennas on the porches outside our sleeping rooms.**

*(Continued from page 2)*

youngest member of a crew which had an average age of 67 .

The first shift began with RU4LM as the first QSO on 17m CW. Day and night we ran 4-1/2 hour shifts keeping 3 to 4 stations active. We operated 30m/40m/80m/160m during the night and the higher bands, of course, during the day-time. Conditions on 40m and 80m were much better than expected. The 160m band with more than 1000 QSOs gave us a lot of fun around sunrise, although we would have been able to have even more fun if only we'd had a special receiving antenna on 160 as well as on 80m. We had vertical antennas for 30m, 40m, 80m, and 160 meters, delta-loop antennas for 12m and 17m and a hex-beam for 10 to 20 meters. All in all, the antennas performed well. Thanks to a double-filter strategy we had no interaction between the active stations. Also we had no problems to speak of with noise from the hotel installations. Unfortunately some of the high-power filters failed, possibly leading to the failure of one of the K3s which happened around the same time. A day later one of our KPA 500 amplifiers gave up. Elecraft in California sent us the necessary spare parts and a few days later we were able to run full power with all 4 stations again. The daily QSO rates led us to our first goal of 30,000 QSO which we easily exceeded in the end with around 45,000 QSOs. Those QSOs

were composed of 65% using CW, 18% using RTTY and 17% using SSB.

The part of the worldwide amateur radio community hardest to reach from Macau is North America. Nevertheless we were able to have more than 3,000 QSOs with North

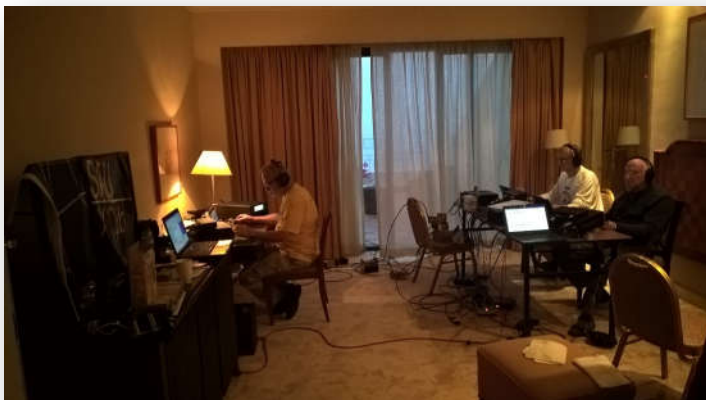
*(Continued on page 4)*



**The top-floor rooms we were able to reserve allowed us to minimize the feedline runs to the antennas we installed on the earthen "roof"**



## XX9D—45,000 QSOs from Macau (con'd)



Our comfortable “shack” sat right below our rooftop antennas.



Porches outside our rooms also provided a place to erect our vertical antennas.



Bom, XX9LT, our Macau-resident operator, carried his share of the load.

*(Continued from page 3)*

America, and almost 1,000 of those on 160/80/40m. Sadly, we had to read some comments in our guest book with complaints about our working style. I am very sure, that we did our best under the special circumstances with propagation far below that which we have experienced in the last 10 years. Thank heavens we were residing in a 5-star hotel which boasted a fantastic restaurant, a pool area, and a very friendly and helpful staff. Our hotel accommodations provided fine conditions for recreation after a strenuous shift or a (sometimes) frustrating night on the lowbands.

All in all we left Macau in a good mood and satisfied that we performed quite well, especially on the low-bands. As promised in our publications, the OQRS and LoTW uploads were done promptly. The paper-QSLs have been printed. Have a look on our homepage [www.xx9d.mydx.de](http://www.xx9d.mydx.de).

A big THANK YOU to all our sponsors worldwide—they really made this DXpedition affordable for the team-members and we are sure we didn't disappoint them.

—73 Werner

Werner Hasemann DJ9KH

## “LOST MEMBERS – PART II”

INDEXA is trying to locate members with whom we have lost contact. In the last newsletter we published the list of members who do not have an email address in our files. This time we are publishing the list of members with a bad email address in our files. The email addresses we have for the members listed below are considered bad because emails to them are “undeliverable”. Please send an email to [secretary@indexa.org](mailto:secretary@indexa.org) if you are on this list or have an email address for someone on this list.

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